Refund of security to the subscribers

723. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money collected by the Department of Telecommunication through security deposits during three years ending on 30th September, 2004; and

(b) the amount of money paid back to the subscribers during the same period after closing the telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of private sector in courier, speed post and parcel services

†724. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concerned over the entry of private sector in courier, speed post, parcel, etc. services;

(b) if not, the extent of increase registered in the aforesaid services by the Postal Department during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons being taken by Government in order to have lead from the private sector in such competitive environment;

(d) whether Government are aware of the quantum of business being done by the private sector; and

(e) whether the performance of private sector is better than Government in the field of courier, speed post, parcel etc. services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of entry of private sector in Express mail and parcel area. The increase registered in premium product *viz.* speed post,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

express parcel post and business post offered by Department of Post during the previous three years is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Number of value additions, like free pick up facility, door to door delivery, internet based track and trace, volume based discount and credit facility have been provided for the premium mail products. Number of booking counters and offices with late hours of booking has been increased. Further, special attention is paid to the marketing and promotion of premium products.

(d) Approximate estimates of the quantum of such business in the organized sector are available with the Department while such services exist both in the organized and unorganized sector.

(e) No, Sir.

Statement

Details of increase in revenue registered by Premium Products of Department of Posts during the last three years

Name of the Product	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Speed Post	196.53	243.01	298.35
Express Parcel Post	19.31	26.09	31.45
Business Post	170.29	276.86	365.11

Telephone exchanges in M.P.

725. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges set up in Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh by the year 2003;

(b) whether telephone exchanges situated at Barkheda, Baramad, Dillaur, Kerala (Gunga), Polash Ganj, Lalaria and Sohaya villages were working by the year 2003, if so, the number of employees working in these exchanges till the said period;